

(b) No such response has been received citing the award / compensation given by the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Faridabad.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Introduction of Mobile Service in Rural Areas

1745. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to introduce mobile phones in all the States especially in rural areas; and

(b) the target set for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government have granted licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), for Metro City Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas, to private operators as well as to the public sector operators, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as per details in the Statement (*See below*). Further process has been started for inducting one more private operator of CMTS in most of the Service Areas, for which bids have been received. After the introduction of additional operator, there will be three private operators and one Government Operator in most of the Service Areas in the country.

The terms and conditions of the licences, *inter-alia*, provide that atleast 10% of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/ towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licences granted. With multiple operators in each Service Area, it is expected that all the Licensees will cover more and more areas including semi-urban and rural areas.

BSNL has been given CMTS licence covering the entire country except for Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service areas. It has proposed to cover all the district Headquarters, important Pilgrimage Centres, Major Highways and

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Railway Routes throughout the country wherever permitted. Rural and semi-urban areas falling within the signal coverage shall also get the benefit of Cellular Mobile Services.

Statement

List of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City/Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
1.	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd. Sterling Cellular Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
3.	Kolkata	Spice Cell Ltd. Usha Maartin Telekom Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
4.	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd. Skycell Communications (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Tata Cellular Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
6.	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
7.	Bihar	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
8.	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd. Birla AT & T Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
9.	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communications(P) Ltd. Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City/Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
11.	Karnataka	Bharti Mobile Ltd. Spice Communication Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
12.	Kerala	Escotel Mobile Communications (P) Ltd. BPL Cellular Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
13.	Maharashtra	BPL Cellular Ltd. Birla AT & T Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
14.	Madhya Pradesh	RPG Cellcom Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
15.	N.E.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
16.	Orissa	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
17.	Punjab	Spice Communication Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
18.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
19.	Tamil Nadu	BPL Cellular Ltd. Aircel Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City/Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
20.	UP (W)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
21.	UP (E)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
22.	West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

Legend: * These licences stand terminated for default in payment of licence fee dues.

Note: Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in J&K, North East and Assam Telecom Circles on security consideration.

Privatisation of basic Telephone Services

1746. **SHRI ANANTA SETHI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise the basic telephone services of 40 circles in different States;

(b) if so, what are those 40 circles;

(c) whether the basic services of these circles are going to be handed over to private sector on lease basis;

(d) if so, for how many years; and

(e) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government propose to grant licence to private basic telephone service operators in 21 circles in different States. The details of 21 circles are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) The licence will be granted as per the guidelines announced on 25th January, 2001 on fulfilling entry conditions such as payment of entry fee,